GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3531
ANSWERED ON:16.04.2008
INADEQUATE ROAD SPACE
Patel Shri Jivabhai Ambalal;Singh Deo Smt. Sangeeta Kumari

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of vehicles operating in the country as on date;

(b) whether the road space available to accommodate these vehicles is inadequate and causes congestion on roads;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA)

(a) As per the latest available data the total number of registered motor vehicles in the country as on 31st March 2004 was 7,27,17,935.

(b)&(c) The number of motor vehicles had steadily increased at an average rate of 10% per annum during the years 1994-2004.However, the road space is not increasing commensurate with the increase in number of vehicles resulting in many serious problems such as traffic congestion, increase in number of road accidents etc.

(d) This Ministry is primarily responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways.There are separate guidelines for capacity of roads in rural areas and capacity of urban roads in plane areas as per Indian Road Congress (IRC) code IRC:64-1990 and IRC: 106-1990 respectively.The development of National Highways including their capacity augmentation is a continuous process. In the recent past Government has taken up several projects for improvement of National Highways including their capacity augmentation and construction of expressways under various phases of National Highways Development Project(NHDP), Special Accelerated Road Development Programme in North East region (SARDP-NE) and under the annual plans of the Department of Road Transport & Highways.